

# *Hampton Roads Mayors and Chairs Caucus*

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## **STATEMENT BY THE HAMPTON ROADS MAYORS AND CHAIRS ON THE PROPOSED HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY HB3202**

The Hampton Roads Mayors and Chairs are grateful that the 2007 session of the Virginia General Assembly took the initiative to address Hampton Roads and the state's critical transportation problems. We also wish to applaud Governor Kaine for his recently announced amendments to HB 3202. The Governor came to the region on a number of occasions to listen not only to the Mayors and Chairs, but to also a broad cross section of the business community and the general public. He has thoughtfully considered our suggestions and many are included in his amendments. The Governor has substantially improved HB 3202 with his amendments.

This legislation is not all we hoped for and will be a serious challenge for the local governments involved to implement, but it is an important start. It has been almost twenty-one years since the last time the General Assembly agreed to permit revenue increases for transportation. We hope the General Assembly will support the Governor's recommended amendments and we further hope that the Hampton Roads members to the General Assembly will join the Mayors and Chairs in explaining and educating the public on the need to obtain local approval of the authority and the revenue streams necessary to move the region's package of projects forward. By working with the Governor and General Assembly, the Hampton Roads region can move forward.